

Multifamily Organics Collection Municipal Case Studies



Cities with Mandated Multi-family Composting



- Boulder, CO
- Seattle, WA
- New York, NY



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Boulder, CO

Business owners are required to separate recyclable and compostable material from trash.

- Implemented in June, 2016
- Hauler Type - Open market with 6-7 haulers
- Challenges / Successes – Per Boulder staff: property managers (participation/cooperation) are the toughest issue. Door-to-door outreach has been ineffective. Community based efforts (gatherings) have been most effective. Properties with valet have the highest success with lowest contamination.
- City Diversion Rate - 39%
- Composting Cost to Customer – Hauler based service fee based on size of cart and # of carts. Plus “Trash Tax” of \$0.85 / cubic yard for properties that use centralized dumpsters & roll-off containers



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Boulder, CO

- Approach / Aspirations – Enforcement is not a priority
 - Focus is on compliance, community training and educational outreach
 - City & County ordinance requires haulers to provide recycling and composting services at no extra charge for single-family homes.
 - *Multi-family communities are considered “independent businesses”.* Haulers can provide recycling and composting service for an extra fee.
- Anything Interesting? - “middle of the road” recyclers (not quite fanatics not quite skeptics) have had the greatest advances toward zero waste. They have learned how to compost and now have increased recycling by placing more items into their recycle carts. Composting has increased their confidence and desire to learn more about recycling, drop-off centers, etc.



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Seattle, WA

Req'd recycling of food waste, compostable paper, and yard waste.

- Date of Implementation – 2015
- Hauler Type – Seattle contracts with CleanScapes, Inc. and Waste Management for garbage, recycling, and food / yard waste collection services. The collection contracts cover all residential and commercial customers by [area](#)
- Challenges / Successes – The multifamily sector was the primary focus in 2016 with an emphasis on equitable education / outreach for tenants and property managers; as well as data collection of the current waste and recycling configurations in existing complexes.
- City Diversion Rate – (2016) 58.8%



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Seattle, WA

- Cost to Customer? Monthly fee based on # of carts on the property.
Currently \$65.81 (64 gal. cart) or \$77.14 (96 gal. cart)
Avg. annual increase of 4.4% through 2020.
 - Approach / Aspirations- The mandatory recycling ordinance included a three year phase-in to support the development of outreach, noticing and penalties.
- Per SMC 21.36.083 – Properties that repeatedly put significant amounts of recyclables or food/yard waste in the garbage may incur a fee of \$50 per infraction.
- Contractors are rewarded \$20 per ton for reduced Residential and Commercial Garbage tons compared to the prior contract year, and \$10 per ton reduced residential recycling or composting tons.



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New York, NY

Requires all organic waste to be separated from landfill waste

- Date of Implementation – Phased 2015 – 2018
- Hauler Type – City (DSNY) & Non-profit outreach partners
- Challenges – Customers using non-compostable bags.
- Successes - A 2015 telephone survey among 500 randomly selected residents in pilot areas found that 69 percent of those who reported receiving bins put organics out for collection.
- City Diversion Rate – (2017) 20.5%
- Cost to Customer? CTL Funding – But considering a requirement to purchase bags for general garbage and offer tax incentives for those who properly recycle.



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New York, NY

- Budget to run program - \$27.7 million to distribute new bins, educate residents and pick up and transport materials.
- Approach / Aspirations – The Department of Sanitation currently serves more than two million residents in all five boroughs with curbside organics service, and will grow to serve 3.3 million residents by the end of 2017.
- “One New York” - The Plan for a Strong and Just City. DSNY will expand organics collection to serve all New York City residents by the end of 2018 and achieve zero waste to landfills by 2030.
- The most recent initiative, “Share My Bin,” combines curbside collection and drop-off. A voluntary program encouraging residents receiving NYC Organics curbside collection to open their bins up to neighbors who may not have one.
They are also partnering with libraries and local businesses willing to adopt larger containers for shared-composting.



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New York, NY

GrowNYC.org
Collection Sites



Food waste drop off site in NYC.



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California Multi-Family Composting Mandates



CALIFORNIA LAW - (AB) 1826

AB 1826 requires businesses and multi-family complexes (5+ units) to start recycling organic waste by the following dates:

- April 1, 2016 - Generators of 8 + cubic yards of *organic* waste / week
- January 1, 2017 - Generators of 4 + cubic yards of *organic* waste / week
- January 1, 2019 - Generators of 4 + cubic yards of solid waste / week



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California Multi-Family Composting Mandates



CALIFORNIA LAW - (AB) 1826

Mandate specifies that affected properties can do any of the following:

- Source separate organic waste from other waste and subscribe to a basic level of organic waste recycling service that includes collection and recycling of organic waste;
- Recycle its organic waste onsite or self-haul its own organic waste for recycling;
- Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that may include mixed waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste;
- Sell or donate the organic waste.



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Other Incentives

- Weekly organics / recycling paired with bi-weekly trash pick, encourages placing food waste in organics bin to reduce smells and pests. ([Portland – Residential Service](#))

Hauler Incentives

- Exemptions from solid waste taxes and fees for haulers with programs to collect and divert recyclables and compostables. ([San Jose](#))
- Reduced tipping fee for compostables over landfill ([San Diego](#))




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